

**OFFICE OF POPULATION CENSUSES AND SURVEYS**

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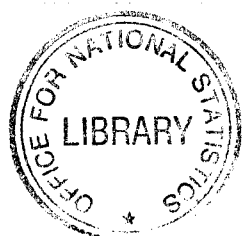
**CENSUS 1971**  
**GREAT BRITAIN**

**A QUALITY CHECK**

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A QUALITY CHECK ON THE 1971 CENSUS OF GREAT BRITAIN

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PREFACE

This Report is a report on a survey which was designed to check the quality of the answers to some of the questions asked in the 1971 Census of Population. The survey was carried out by the Social Survey Division of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys.

Other post-enumeration surveys and checks were carried out on the 1971 Census. Some of these are mentioned below.

ENGLAND AND WALES	Position as at August 1977
Coverage check	To be reported
Control checks	To be reported

SCOTLAND

Coverage check		(Population Tables, Appx D
		(
Intercensal comparison on housing topics		(Housing Report, Appx C
		(
Check on 'Vacant' or 'Occupier Absent' household spaces	Reported in Census 71	(Housing Report, Appx D
		(
Check of replies to 'Fertility' questions	Scotland	(Fertility Tables, Pt 1 (Sect VII
		(
		(
Gaelic speakers; validation of results		(Gaelic Report, Appx B

Social Survey no.

SS 207

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# A QUALITY CHECK ON THE 1971 CENSUS OF GREAT BRITAIN

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# A QUALITY CHECK ON THE 1971 CENSUS OF GREAT BRITAIN

## INTRODUCTION

### QUALITY CHECKS

1. Specially designed Quality Check surveys were carried out following the two previous censuses, the 1961 Census<sup>(1)</sup> and the 1966 Sample Census<sup>(2)</sup>. This Quality Check on the 1971 Census, like the Quality Check on the 1966 Census, was carried out by the Social Survey. The Social Survey is now a Division of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys.

2. The Report for the Quality Check on the 1966 Sample Census only referred to England and Wales. The figures presented in this Quality Check include data that were collected in Scotland as well. Following the pattern adopted in 1966 it was the original intention to produce the Report for this Quality Check as a separate publication. Regrettably, however, because of other priorities within Social Survey Division, this was not possible. This Report is therefore produced as a volume of the General Report for the 1971 Census. This practice is similar to that adopted for the 1961 Census.

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1. Census 1961, Great Britain, General Report: HMSO; 1968

2. A Quality Check on the 1966 Ten Percent Sample Census of England and Wales; P Gray and F A Gee: HMSO; 1972

## THE DESIGN OF THE QUALITY CHECK

3. The concept of one multi-purpose, all-embracing post-census survey designed both to measure the completeness of coverage of a census and to check the quality of response to the questions asked can be attractive in theory. However the practical and organisational difficulties are such that a division of the task into two separate specialist surveys will often be the most sensible, and indeed, accurate way of validating the results of a census.

4. This Quality Check was not therefore designed as a Coverage Check. Its starting point was completed census returns. In consequence it does not attempt to report on the effectiveness of the coverage of the 1971 Census. The separate Coverage Check for the 1971 Census is described in a separate volume of this General Report.

## THE PLANNED SAMPLE

5. The sampling frame for this Quality Check consisted of the total of all the Household and Personal census forms completed during the 1971 Census. The sample was selected in 3 stages:

1st stage: 100 Census Districts were sampled from the total of 1997 Census Districts in England and Wales. 19 Census Districts were sampled from the total of 387 Census Districts in Scotland.

2nd stage: 2 Enumeration Districts were sampled from each of the selected Census Districts.

3rd stage: Individual census forms were sampled from each selected Enumeration District to produce a planned total of 5,000 form fillers to interview.

## THE INTERVIEWERS' TASKS

6. For each address selected in the sample the interviewer had 3 main tasks.

1. To identify and interview each person who was responsible for filling in the census form for each household at that address. For this purpose the Household Questionnaire was used.
2. To identify and interview 1 in 3 of all persons aged 15 years or more in the selected sample to check on replies to census questions enquiring about the person's circumstances in relation to paid employment. These persons were selected for interview as part of the sampling process. They were not chosen by the interviewer. This interview was conducted using the Individual Employment Questionnaire.

### THE INTERVIEWERS' TASKS (Continued)

3. To identify and interview 1 in 3 of all the women in selected households who were aged 16-59 years inclusive and who were married, widowed or divorced. Again the women to be interviewed were selected as part of the sampling process. The purpose of these interviews was to check on replies to the census questions directed specifically to these women and enquiring about the dates of their marriage and the number of children they had had born alive in their marriage. The Individual Fertility Questionnaire was used for this purpose.

### THE FIELDWORK FOR THE QUALITY CHECK SURVEY

7. Census night in 1971 was 25/26 April. Any Quality Check of this design should be carried out as soon as possible after Census night. But there was a lot to do before information could be passed to the Social Survey Division from the Census Division. It was originally planned therefore that the fieldwork for this survey should be carried out during the period 1 - 30 June. In the event however this target period proved to be too optimistic. Fieldwork did not start until 21 June and, because of the difficulties in transferring information from Census Division to Social Survey Division, it went ahead only slowly. This caused the fieldwork to run into the summer holiday period with further consequential delays. Fieldwork was finally ended on 24 September although, even at that time, not all the information needed to complete the sample had been received by Social Survey Division.

### THE ACHIEVED SAMPLE

8. During the period 21 June - 24 September, 4747 eligible persons who had had responsibility for completing a census form were approached by the Social Survey Division interviewers in order to seek their co-operation in this Quality Check. 4202 of them agreed to help, thus producing a response rate for the Household Questionnaire of 89%.

9. In addition within these 4747 cases

- a. 2358 individuals were sought to get their co-operation in answering the Individual Employment Questionnaire. Interviews were achieved with 2008 of them, a response rate of 85%.
- b. 956 women were sought to answer the questions in the Individual Fertility Questionnaire. 830 of them co-operated with the Quality Check interviewers giving a response rate of 87%.

## COMPARISON WITH THE CENSUS FORMS

10. The principal object of the Quality Check is to check the quality of information recorded on the census form by the form filler. To help achieve this aim it was considered useful that the Quality Check interviewer should have this information available for reference whilst they were carrying out their interviews. In order to maintain confidentiality of the original census forms the relevant census information was transferred, using a 2 stage process, from the census form on to the interviewers schedules before the interviewer approached the selected addresses.

11. The questions on the Quality Check interview schedules were, in general designed to elicit the information required to validate, or otherwise, the replies recorded on the census form without repeating the identical wording used on the census form. The interviewer was not, with one exception, asked to query any apparent errors that came to light during the Quality Check interviews. No attempt was to be made by the interviewer to reconcile Quality Check information with the information recorded on the census form.

*why not?*

## THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE QUALITY CHECK FINDINGS AND THE PUBLISHED CENSUS STATISTICS

12. Most of the tabulations in this Report demonstrate a comparison between

- a. what the form filler had, or had not, entered on the census form, and
- b. what the Quality Check interviewer had found to be the case when the form filler, or person concerned, was interviewed.

It is most important to recognise that the published census statistics are produced from the raw data collected on the census form only after an extensive and complex programme of checking, validation testing, and editing.

13. For example in checking the dates of birth recorded on the census forms (Census Question (B)2) the instructions given to the checkers by the census takers included the following

### DATE OF BIRTH

If the date of birth is missing it may be possible to estimate the year of birth from other particulars on the form. For instance, assume a woman to be three years younger than her husband, but remember that to be married she must have been born before 25 April 1955.

If the day and month are missing insert 31 in the day panel and 6 (June) in the month panel.

If the month only has been omitted insert 6 in the month panel.

If the day only has been omitted assume any valid day for the given month, except the 15th and 31st.



And in checking the dates of birth of children born in marriage (Census Question (B)23) the checkers' instructions included

If dates of birth of children are shown in (Census Question) B23 against a person for whom B24 is blank then, if the person is a male and the following person is his wife, the children shown against the male should be copied into B23 for the wife so long as the dates of birth are later than the marriage date shown for the wife. The entry for the male in B23 should be deleted ....

14. These are only two examples of a large range of checks etc which result in important alterations being made to the raw data entered on the census form. These alterations made by the census takers will have the effect of reducing some of the error rates identified in this Quality Check and they will of course subsequently appear incorporated within the published census statistics. For this reason it would not in general be wise for users of census statistics to attempt to adjust any of the published census statistics in the light of these Quality Check findings without reference to the Census Division of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys.

15. A more detailed explanation of how cases of erroneous omission of data from the census forms affected Census Questions (B)23 and (B)24 is incorporated in the introduction to the relevant census publication, (Census 1971, England and Wales, Fertility Tables, Vol. 1 (100%)).

INDIVIDUALS

DATE OF BIRTH

CENSUS QUESTION (B)2 AND C2

<b>B2</b> Write the <b>date of birth</b> of the person.			<b>C2</b> Write the <b>sex</b> ,  (M for male, F for female),  and <b>date of birth</b> of the person.		
Day	Month	Year	Sex		
			Day	Month	Year

16. A person's age forms the basis of several published census tabulations and it is important that information collected on this subject during the census should be accurate. This particular topic was the subject of a very detailed investigation following the 1961 Census. Then the ages of persons collected during that census and the dates of birth for the same persons collected during the Quality Check were compared with their dates of birth as recorded in the public registers of births. As a result of this investigation it was shown that

'The general effect of asking for date of birth rather than age was to produce some improvement in the quality of answers'.

It is for this reason that a question asking for the person's date of birth was introduced into the 1966 Census and this practice was repeated in the 1971 Census. In consequence this Quality Check on the 1971 Census was designed to carry out only a limited check on the accuracy of dates of birth recorded on the census form. The check was carried out with the form filler, not necessarily the person concerned, and no attempt was made to compare any dates with dates recorded in public registers.

17. Table 1 summarises the number and size of the errors that were found by the Quality Check interviewers. Unlike some other tables in this part of this report Table 1 is based on the replies given on the census form in respect of 11,597 persons. This is because in measuring the accuracy of this topic the total number of persons concerned included not only

a. those who were reported as being present on census night (Question (B)2) = 11,350 persons

but also,

b. those who, although not present on census night, usually lived in the household being interviewed (Question C2) = 247 persons

18. It will be seen from Table 1 that for all age groups taken together the success rate for this topic, that is the proportion of replies where any error in the recorded date of birth is less than 1 month, is 98.17%. The total number of cases where an error of 1 month or more has been recorded is

86 (persons younger) + 83 (persons older) = 169 all cases of error

Of these the number of cases where the error is precisely 1 month or 1 year, thus indicating probable simple counting errors, is

24 (1 month younger) + 15 (1 year younger)  
 + 16 (1 month older) + 20 (1 year older) = 75 cases  
 = 44.4 per cent of all cases of error.

19. Table 2 reverts to the normal basis of 11,350 persons ie those persons who were recorded on the census forms as being present on census night. This table shows the effect on the age distribution of this sample of the population of the errors in the dates of birth that were identified during the Quality Check. The age groupings in Table 2 are single years from 0-9 years of age and 5 year groups from 10-94 years of age. In the 5 year age grouping of course many recorded errors would not be noticed. The largest single correcting factor in this Table arises from the fact that the Quality Check interviewers were able to provide dates of birth where the original census form has been left blank. In general the question was well answered. But as it is concerned with numbers; remembering the right number; possibly transposing names of months into numbers; and getting the right numbers in the right order; it must be expected that there will always be some errors which cannot easily be explained or avoided. Any improvement in the response to this question must be directed towards reducing the number of blank responses.

1971 CENSUS: QUALITY CHECK

TABLE 1

Accuracy of Question B2 and C2

DATE OF BIRTH

Difference between date of birth recorded on the census form and the date of birth established at the Quality Check

		PERSONS	
		Number	%
Date of birth established at Quality Check is LATER than date recorded on census form. Person is younger than census age by	More than 2 years	26	0.22
	2 years	7	0.06
	Less than 2 years More than 1 year	3	0.03
	1 year	15	0.13
	Less than 1 year More than 1 month	11	0.09
	1 month	24	0.21
	All persons younger	86	0.74
No difference or difference less than 1 month		11,385	98.17
Date of birth established at Quality Check is EARLIER than date recorded on census form. Person is older than census age by	1 month	16	0.14
	More than 1 month Less than 1 year	14	0.12
	1 year	20	0.17
	More than 1 year Less than 2 years	2	0.02
	2 years	5	0.04
	More than 2 years	26	0.22
	All persons older	83	0.72
Not calculable		43	0.37
All persons		11,597	100.00

# 1971 CENSUS: QUALITY CHECK

TABLE 2

## Accuracy of Question B2

### DATE OF BIRTH: AGE DISTRIBUTION BY SEXES

A comparison of ages calculated from the census form with the ages established at the Quality Check. In this Table age is defined as 1971 minus year of birth.

AGE Years	NUMBERS AS RECORDED ON CENSUS FORM				NUMBERS AS ESTABLISHED AT THE QUALITY CHECK				CHANGE OF % AT QUALITY CHECK	
	MALE	%	FEMALE	%	MALE	%	FEMALE	%	MALE %	FEMALE %
0	31	0.27	22	0.19	32	0.28	22	0.19	+ 0.01	0
1	101	0.89	90	0.79	101	0.89	90	0.79	0	0
2	87	0.77	88	0.78	88	0.78	87	0.77	+ 0.01	- 0.01
3	107	0.94	85	0.75	106	0.93	86	0.76	- 0.01	+ 0.01
4	96	0.85	106	0.93	99	0.87	106	0.93	+ 0.03	0
5	99	0.87	110	0.97	100	0.88	111	0.98	+ 0.01	+ 0.01
6	121	1.07	85	0.75	121	1.07	85	0.75	0	0
7	102	0.90	92	0.81	105	0.93	95	0.84	+ 0.03	+ 0.03
8	111	0.98	81	0.71	110	0.97	80	0.70	- 0.01	- 0.01
9	106	0.93	94	0.83	107	0.94	96	0.85	+ 0.01	+ 0.02
10 - 14	455	4.01	452	3.98	456	4.02	454	4.00	+ 0.01	+ 0.02
15 - 19	385	3.39	375	3.30	387	3.41	377	3.32	+ 0.02	+ 0.01
20 - 24	393	3.46	450	3.96	396	3.49	451	3.97	+ 0.03	+ 0.01
25 - 29	374	3.30	386	3.40	375	3.30	391	3.44	+ 0.01	+ 0.04
30 - 34	340	3.00	359	3.16	335	2.95	356	3.14	- 0.04	- 0.03
35 - 39	339	2.99	324	2.85	340	3.00	325	2.86	+ 0.01	+ 0.01
40 - 44	339	2.99	315	2.78	340	3.00	314	2.77	+ 0.01	- 0.01
45 - 49	366	3.22	360	3.17	367	3.23	361	3.18	+ 0.01	+ 0.01
50 - 54	347	3.06	348	3.07	347	3.06	346	3.05	0	- 0.02
55 - 59	312	2.75	329	2.90	314	2.77	329	2.90	+ 0.02	0
60 - 64	305	2.69	369	3.25	307	2.70	372	3.28	+ 0.02	+ 0.03
65 - 69	226	1.99	304	2.68	227	2.00	306	2.70	+ 0.01	+ 0.02
70 - 74	159	1.40	230	2.03	162	1.43	230	2.03	+ 0.03	0
75 - 79	106	0.93	180	1.59	105	0.93	185	1.63	- 0.01	+ 0.04
80 - 84	52	0.46	107	0.94	52	0.46	106	0.93	0	- 0.01
85 - 89	19	0.17	43	0.38	19	0.17	42	0.37	0	- 0.01
90 - 94	4	0.04	15	0.13	4	0.04	14	0.12	0	0.01
95+	1	0.01	2	0.02	1	0.01	2	0.02	0	0
No info.	31	0.27	35	0.31	11	0.10	17	0.15	- 0.18	- 0.16
All groups	5,514	48.58	5,836	51.42	5,514	48.58	5,836	51.42		
			5,514	48.58			5,514	48.58		
All persons			11,350	100.00			11,350	100.00		

PERSON'S OWN COUNTRY OF BIRTH. YEAR OF ENTRY INTO UK

CENSUS QUESTION (B) 9

20. At this question the form filler was instructed

<b>B9</b>	
<i>a</i>	If the person was born in England or Wales or Scotland or Northern Ireland tick the appropriate box.
	or
<i>b</i>	If the person was born in another country, write the name of the country (using the name by which it is known today) and the year in which the person first entered the United Kingdom (that is England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland).
<hr/>	
<i>a</i>	Born in
<input type="checkbox"/>	England
01	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Scotland
02	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Wales (incl. Monmouthshire)
03	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Northern Ireland
or <i>b</i>	
Born in ..... (country)	
and entered U.K. in ..... (year)	

COUNTRY OF BIRTH

21. The parts of this question which asked about a person's country of birth produced, as far as this Quality Check was concerned, some of the best responses on the census form. Table 3 shews that nearly all (99.1 per cent) of the replies given on this topic were correct. This Table compares the information recorded on the census form with the information collected by the Quality Check interviewer. The numbers contained in the inter-section squares (double lined) are the numbers of persons about whom the census forms and the Quality Check interviewers were in agreement. Looking at the numbers in the other squares in the body of the Table it is seen that the largest total in any one column is 57. For these 57 persons their place of birth could not be stated because it has not been entered on the census form at this question. But the Quality Check interviewers found that of these 57 persons

- 51 were born in England
- 4 were born in Scotland
- 1 was born in the Irish Republic
- 1 was born in another Commonwealth country

It is therefore possible to analyse all the cases of 'Birthplace not stated' on the census forms in this sample as follows

Number of persons	Birthplace	% of all cases 'Birthplace not stated' on the census form
51	England	64.6
4	Scotland	5.1
1	Irish Republic	1.3
1	Commonwealth	1.3
<u>22</u>	Not known (see para 35 )	<u>27.8</u>
<u>79</u>		<u>100.0</u>

22. The next largest group of errors, involving 19 persons, was an error of precision. For these persons the form filler had entered "Ireland" on the census form as their country of birth whereas the Quality Check interviewers found that more accurately the situation was as follows

Number of persons	Birthplace	% of all cases 'Ireland, part not stated' on the census form
18	Irish Republic	90.0
1	Northern Ireland	5.0
1	Ireland, part not known (see para 35 )	5.0
<u>20</u>		<u>100.0</u>

In this connection it is relevant to note that whenever persons in the classification 'Ireland, part not stated' were not separately identified in the published census tabulations, they were included within the classification 'Irish Republic'.

23. The third most noticeable group of errors, relating to 13 persons, disclosed a tendency for the form filler to record a person's country of birth as "England" when in fact this was not the case. This could suggest perhaps a lack of communication between the form filler and the person concerned and it could also indicate a possible confusion in the form filler's mind between a person's country of birth and a person's nationality.

24. The remaining noticeable group of errors, 10 persons, is again due to a lack of precision on the part of the form filler and, in addition, to a misreading of the question. For these 10 persons an expression like "Great Britain" or "UK" or "British Isles" had been written in at part 'b' of the space provided on the census form for answering the question. The Quality Check interviewers established that in every such case the form filler need only have ticked the box "England" in part 'a' of the answer space.

1971 CENSUS: QUALITY CHECK

TABLE 3

Accuracy of Question B9

PERSONS OWN COUNTRY OF BIRTH

		Number of Persons														
		CENSUS														
		WHAT THE FORM FILLER ENTERED ON THE CENSUS FORM														
		PERSONS OWN COUNTRY OF BIRTH														
		Total	England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland	UK Part not stated	Channel Islands Isle of Man	Irish Republic	Ireland part not stated	Common-Wealth	Foreign Country	Birth place not stated			
<b>Error rate:</b>																
= $\frac{105}{11,350} = 0.9\%$																
<b>Success rate</b>																
= $\frac{11,245}{11,350} = 99.1\%$																
QUALITY CHECK	WHAT THE QUALITY CHECK INTERVIEWER FOUND TO BE THE CASE	PERSONS OWN COUNTRY OF BIRTH	Total	11,350	8,726	1,368	542	46	15	8	98	20	256	192	79	
			England	8,776	8,713	0	1	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	51
			Scotland	1,374	2	1,367	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4
			Wales	544	3	0	541	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Northern Ireland	46	0	0	0	45	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
			UK part not stated	5	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Channel Islands Isle of Man	10	2	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Irish Republic	116	1	0	0	0	0	0	96	18	0	0	0	1
			Ireland part not stated	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
			Common Wealth	259	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	255	0	0	1
			Foreign Country	196	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	192	0	0
			Birth place not stated	23	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22



## YEAR OF ENTRY INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM

25. Table 4 shows that in the Quality Check sample of 11,350 persons present in their household on census night there were 576 persons (= 5.1 per cent) for whom this part of census question (B)9 should have been answered; that is they were persons who had not been born within the UK.

26. Taking errors of omission together with errors caused by writing down the wrong year produces, in Table 4, a total of 77 misclassifications, a rather high error rate of 13.4 per cent. But this in fact is an under estimate. It is lower than the true error rate because in Table 4 the years of entry before 1955 have been grouped in a similar way to that used in some published census statistics.

27. Table 5 shews in detail the size and number of individual errors or omissions. This more precise identification of errors gives a success rate of 82.6 per cent and an error rate of 17.4 per cent.

28. Table 6 shews the effect on the distribution of the years of entry for this sample of the population when the errors and omissions identified during the Quality Check have been taken into account. The largest single correcting factor results from adding in the information collected during the Quality Check that was omitted from the census form. This together with the correction of wrong dates has the greatest absolute effect on the "Before 1940" group and gives a clue to the main reason for error in this census question.

29. As has been explained before, in general the Quality Check interviewers did not attempt to enquire why form fillers had made mistakes in completing the census form. However, for this topic the Quality Check interview schedule was designed in such a way that the main reason for the errors became clear. It was that the form filler has interpreted the instructions at census question (B)9 b to mean that they should write down the year the person first entered the UK to settle and not the year the person first visited the UK on some possibly transient mission. Other form fillers having some reasonable doubt about which year they ought to write down left the census form blank. Table 7 gives the reasons for the actual first visit of most of those persons who had entered the UK earlier than the year that has been recorded for them or for whom the census form has been left blank. It is to be noted that the Instructions for Census Enumerators(3) was unequivocal on this point, stating

'The year of entry is the year in which the person first visited the United Kingdom'.

- 
3. 1971 Census: Instructions for Census Enumerators; unpublished.

1971 Census: Quality Check.  
Accuracy of Question B9b  
Year of Entry into UK

Number of  
Persons

	CENSUS RESULTS																																				
	What the form-filler entered on the census form: the person entered UK during																																				
	Total	Born in UK	All Not Born in UK	Before 1940	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	No answer	
Total	11,380	10,774	576	105	21	56	42	15	18	12	17	14	32	20	31	9	20	20	21	20	22	10	43	28													
Born in UK	10,774	10,774																																			
All Not Born in UK	576		576																																		
Before 1940	111			101	2																																
1940					1	19	1																														
1944	22																																				
1945																																					
1949	57																																				
1950																																					
1959	42																																				
1955	16																																				
1956	21																																				
1957	10																																				
1958	19																																				
1959	15																																				
1960	31																																				
1961	24																																				
1962	30																																				
1963	10																																				
1964	22																																				
1965	23																																				
1966	20																																				
1967	19																																				
1968	25																																				
1969	10																																				
1970	45																																				
1971	45																																				
No answer	4																																				

Error rate  
=  $\frac{77}{576}$   
= 13.4%

Success rate  
=  $\frac{499}{576}$   
= 86.6%

QUALITY  
CHECK  
RESULTS

What the form-filler entered on the census form: the person entered UK during

# 1971 CENSUS: QUALITY CHECK

## Accuracy of Question B9b

### YEAR ENTERED UK

**TABLE 5**

**TABLE 6**

Difference between year entered as recorded on census form and year established at Quality Check

Year of entry; distributions compared

	Diff in years	Number of Persons	%	
Year on census form later than actual year of first entry. Person entered earlier by this number of years:-	+ 18	1		
	+ 17	1		
	+ 13	1		
	+ 6	3		
	+ 5	0		
	+ 4	2		
	+ 3	2		
	+ 2	5		
	+ 1	22		
All entered earlier		37	6.42	
Years agree	0	476	82.64	
Year on census form earlier than actual year of first entry. Person entered later by this number of years:-	- 1	14		
	- 2	2		
	- 3	4		
	- 4	3		
	- 5	2		
	- 6	1		
	- 7	1		
	- 8	2		
		- 11	1	
		- 17	1	
	- 27	1		
All entered later		32	5.56	
Not calculable		31	5.38	
All NOT born in UK		576	100.00	
All born in UK		10,774		
Total		11,350		

Year of entry	Census		Quality Check		Change of % at QC
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Before 1940	105	18.23	111	19.27	+ 1.04
1940 - 1944	21	3.65	22	3.82	+ 0.17
1945 - 1949	56	9.72	57	9.90	+ 0.17
1950 - 1954	42	7.29	42	7.29	0
1955	15	2.60	16	2.78	+ 0.17
1956	18	3.13	21	3.65	+ 0.52
1957	12	2.08	10	1.74	- 0.35
1958	17	2.95	19	3.30	+ 0.35
1959	14	2.43	15	2.60	+ 0.17
1960	32	5.56	31	5.38	- 0.17
1961	20	3.47	24	4.17	+ 0.69
1962	31	5.38	30	5.21	- 0.17
1963	9	1.56	10	1.74	+ 0.17
1964	20	3.47	22	3.82	+ 0.35
1965	20	3.47	23	3.99	+ 0.52
1966	21	3.65	20	3.47	- 0.17
1967	20	3.47	19	3.30	- 0.17
1968	22	3.82	25	4.34	+ 0.52
1969	10	1.74	10	1.74	0
1970 - 1971	43	7.47	45	7.81	+ 0.35
No answer	28	4.86	4	0.69	- 4.17
All NOT born in UK	576	100.00	576	100.00	
All born in UK	10,774		10,774		
Total	11,350		11,350		

Reason for FIRST visit for those persons who

- a. entered the UK earlier than the date they recorded on the census form 37 cases
- b. did not answer the question because they were not sure what date to record 28 cases
- c. recorded a date but are included in the Not calculable category above 3 cases

**TABLE 7**

	Number of persons
Looking for work	10
In connexion with own or parents service in Forces	6
Holiday/recreational visit	43
Working visit	2
Study/School visit	5
In transit	1
To investigate immigration prospects	1

All cases

68

THE COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF THE PERSON'S PARENTS

CENSUS QUESTION (B) 10

30. This question was a novel feature of the 1971 Census. Its purpose was explained to census enumerators as follows:

"You may be asked why this question is necessary. The purpose is to identify the children of immigrants (white as well as coloured) and hence to see how their housing, education, employment, etc., standards compare with the rest of the population. This information is vital to measure the extent to which immigrants are being integrated into the community".

31. The question instructed the form filler:

<p><b>B10</b> Write the country of birth of:</p> <p><i>a</i> the person's <b>father</b></p> <p><i>b</i> the person's <b>mother</b></p> <p><i>This question should be answered even if the person's father or mother is no longer alive. (If country not known, write 'NOT KNOWN'.)</i> <i>Give the name by which the country is known today.</i></p>
<p><i>a</i> Father born in (country)</p>  <p><i>b</i> Mother born in (country)</p>

32. In asking a question about an event which could have happened over 100 years ago and on the other side of the world the census taker was obviously not going to be surprised if a high success rate was not achieved. At the end of each Quality Check interview each form filler was asked, "What did you think of the census?" In reply to this question many comments were to the effect that the census question about their parents place of birth was a difficult one. Members of the older generations especially commented that this was not the type of question they would have asked their parents. Further the question could, and so it did, pose difficulties both real and emotional to parents of an adopted child.

33. The results of the Quality Check enquiry into this census question are shown in

Table 8; the country of birth of the person's father  
Table 9; the country of birth of the person's mother

These results are again cross-analysed with the information that was recorded on the census form by the form filler. Clearly one of the objects of this census question was to identify within the community, immigrants from the New Commonwealth. These persons rather than immigrants from the Old Commonwealth (defined as Australia, Canada and New Zealand) would be of greater concern to those who have responsibilities for ensuring that "immigrants are being integrated into the community". This identification of New Commonwealth persons has of course been achieved in the published census results. Unfortunately however the Quality Check did not separately identify the quality of replies to this census question as between Old and New Commonwealth persons and finer analyses than those presented in Tables 8 and 9 are not possible.

34. As expected it will be seen that the success rates achieved for this census question are lower than those achieved for the previous census question which asked about the person's own country of birth.

Nevertheless the success rates of

95.5 per cent for the country of birth of the person's father  
and

94.9 per cent for the country of birth of the person's mother

compare very favourably with the success rate of

99.1 per cent for the person's own country of birth.

35. Two important points should be noted about all these results (ie Tables 3, 8 and 9). Firstly to avoid confusion and for ease of comparison the nomenclature in these Tables follows the general form of the wording used in the published census results. Whilst this wording makes complete sense in so far as it relates to the census figures it is not always entirely appropriate for the Quality Check results. In particular the term 'Birthplace not stated' when used in relation to census figures includes those cases where

- a. the expression 'NOT KNOWN' had been written on the census form, or
- b. the census form had been left blank in error, although the information could perhaps have been made available.

And the term 'part not stated' includes those cases where a non-specific location (eg Ireland, GB, UK, Britain) had been entered

Accuracy of Question (B)10a

THE COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF THE PERSON'S FATHER

Number of persons

Error rate:

$$= \frac{513}{11,350} = 4.5\%$$

Success rate:

$$= \frac{10,837}{11,350} = 95.5\%$$

		CENSUS												
		WHAT THE FORM FILLER ENTERED ON THE CENSUS FORM												
		THE COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF THE PERSON'S FATHER WAS												
		Total	England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland	UK part not stated	Channel Islands Isle of Man	Irish Republic	Ireland part not stated	Commonwealth	Foreign Country	Birth place not stated	
Q U A L I T Y  C H E C K	WHAT THE QUALITY CHECK INTERVIEWER FOUND TO BE THE CASE.	Total	11350	8021	1362	532	70	135	14	154	112	306	299	345
		England	8211	7953	5	11	0	93	0	1	0	1	1	146
		Scotland	1389	13	1350	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	21
		Wales	560	26	0	521	0	6	0	0	1	0	0	6
		Northern Ireland	92	6	2	0	65	2	0	1	13	0	0	3
		UK part not stated	29	0	0	0	0	29	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Channel Islands Isle of Man	17	3	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	0
		Irish Republic	258	11	1	0	4	0	0	152	75	0	0	15
		Ireland part not stated	29	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	23	0	0	2
		Commonwealth	329	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	305	0	20
		Foreign Country	307	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	298	5
		Birth place not stated	129	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	127

1971 CENSUS : QUALITY CHECK

TABLE 9

Accuracy of Question (B) 10b

THE COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF THE PERSON'S MOTHER

Number of persons

Error rate:

$$= \frac{580}{11,350} = 5.1\%$$

Success rate:

$$= \frac{10,770}{11,350} = 94.9\%$$

		CENSUS												
		WHAT THE FORM FILLER ENTERED ON THE CENSUS FORM												
		THE COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF THE PERSON'S MOTHER WAS												
		Total	England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland	UK part not stated	Channel Islands Isle of Man	Irish Republic	Ireland part not stated	Commonwealth	Foreign Country	Birth place not stated	
Q U A L I T Y  C H E C K	WHAT THE INTERVIEWER FOUND TO BE THE CASE.	Total	11350	8040	1369	543	81	134	17	138	98	285	261	384
		England	8286	7967	8	10	0	99	0	0	2	0	0	200
		Scotland	1402	8	1358	0	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	31
		Wales	585	36	0	533	0	5	0	0	0	1	0	10
		Northern Ireland	101	2	0	0	78	0	0	3	17	0	0	1
		UK part not stated	25	0	0	0	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Channel Islands Isle of Man	20	2	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	1	0	0
		Irish Republic	228	7	1	0	3	0	0	135	63	1	0	18
		Ireland part not stated	22	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	2
		Commonwealth	302	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	278	0	18
		Foreign Country	275	8	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	261	1
		Birth place not stated	104	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	103

on the census form either because the form filler

- a. genuinely did not know the specific location
- or
- b. was in error in failing to give the specific location.

However the expression 'not stated' when it refers to Quality Check results more accurately identifies the 'not known' categories mentioned above.

36. The second important point to note in Tables 3, 8 and 9 is that, as in all the cross-tabulations in this Quality Check, the success rates are based on the figures within the double-lined intersection squares, that is on those figures on which the Quality Check and the census forms agreed. Another measure of the success rate for this census question in more absolute terms might be calculated by omitting the agreed number of 'birthplace not stated (or known)' cases from the total of successes. This treatment produces lower success rates of:

98.9 per cent for person's own country of birth table (Table 3)

94.4 per cent for the country of birth of the person's father table (Table 8)

94.0 per cent for the country of birth of the person's mother table (Table 9)

BIRTHPLACE NOT STATED : WHERE THEY WERE BORN

REDISTRIBUTION ON A PERCENTAGE BASIS

37. The Quality Check shews that persons who, from the details given on their census form, were classified as having a birthplace 'not stated' can be re-distributed on a percentage basis to countries or areas as follows

	Percentage of 'birthplace not stated' cases born in each of the areas indicated		
	Person	Person's	Person's
	%	Father	Mother
		%	%
England	64.6	42.3	52.1
Scotland	5.1	6.1	8.1
Wales	0	1.7	2.6
N Ireland	0	0.9	0.3
Irish Republic	1.3	4.3	4.7
Ireland, part not known	0	0.6	0.5
Commonwealth	1.3	5.8	4.7
Foreign Country	0	1.4	0.3
Birthplace not known	27.8	36.8	26.8
	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>
Number of persons forming base	= 79	345	384



BIRTHPLACE SUCCESS RATES FOR EACH SEPARATE GEOGRAPHICAL AREA IDENTIFIED DURING THE QUALITY CHECK

38. Looking at the birthplace success rates for each of the separate geographical areas identified during the Quality Check highlights again the difficulty the census taker has in fully classifying persons born in Ireland. The separate success rates are defined as

$$\frac{\text{Number of persons born in each area on which the Census and Quality Check agree}}{\text{Total number of persons born in that area as found by the Quality Check}} \times 100 \text{ per cent}$$

For Tables 8 and 9 these success rates are as follows:

Success rates for FATHERS who were born in		Success rates for MOTHERS who were born in	
	%		%
UK, part not known	100.0	UK, part not known	100.0
Scotland	97.2	Scotland	96.9
Foreign Country	97.1	England	96.2
England	96.9	Foreign Country	94.9
All areas	94.4	All areas	94.0
Wales	93.0	Commonwealth	92.1
Commonwealth	92.7	Wales	91.1
Channel Island/IoM	(14:17)	Channel Island/IoM	85.0
Ireland, part not known	79.3	N Ireland	77.2
N Ireland	70.7	Ireland, part not known	68.2
Irish Republic	58.9	Irish Republic	59.2

BIRTHPLACE 'NOT STATED' RATES FOR EACH SEPARATE GEOGRAPHICAL AREA IDENTIFIED DURING THE QUALITY CHECK

39. It is also of interest to look at each of the geographical areas identified during the Quality Check and to calculate separate birthplace 'Not stated' rates. This rate is defined as

$$\frac{\text{Number of persons born in each area as identified by the Quality Check but whose place of birth was not stated on the census form}}{\text{Total number of persons born in that area as found by the Quality Check}} \times 100 \text{ per cent}$$

Note that this rate does not count in the numerator those persons whose birthplace was 'not stated' because it was not known. The Quality Check had to identify the birthplace in every case. This rate is a measure of the failure to record on the census form what

in fact was known to be the case. The rates for each area are as follows:

Birthplace 'not stated' rates for FATHERS who were born in		Birthplace 'not stated' rates for MOTHERS who were born in	
	%		%
Channel Island/IoM	0	Channel Island/IoM	0
UK, part not known	0	UK, part not known	0
Wales	1.1	Foreign Country	0.4
Scotland	1.5	N Ireland	1.0
Foreign Country	1.6	Wales	1.7
England	1.8	Scotland	2.2
All areas	1.9	England	2.4
N Ireland	3.3	All Areas	2.5
Irish Republic	5.8	Commonwealth	6.0
Commonwealth	6.1	Irish Republic	7.9
Ireland, part not known	6.9	Ireland, part not known	9.1

## CIRCUMSTANCES IN RELATION TO PAID EMPLOYMENT : ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

### INTRODUCTION

40. The questions on the census form which enquired into some aspect of the person's circumstances in relation to paid employment were as follows:-

- (B)7\* and C4 - did the person have a job 'last week'?
- (B)8 - will the person be a full-time student 'next term'?  
(Note: persons answering 'Yes' to question B8 were classified as 'economically inactive' in the published census statistics even if they had a job in the week before the census)
- (B)15\* and C5 - what was the name and business of person's employer?
- (B)16\* and C6 - what was the person's occupation and describe the actual work done?
- (B)17\* and C7 - was the person an employee or self-employed?
- (B)18 - if the person was an apprentice or trainee.
- (B)19\* - how many hours per week does the person usually work?
- (B)20 - what is the full address of the person's place of work?
- (B)21 - what means of transport does the person use to go to work?
- (B)22\* - was the person's occupation one year ago the same as 'last week'?

None of these questions had to be answered for children under 15 years of age.

Questions (B)15 to (B)17 and C5 to C7 were asked in respect of the main employment in the week before the census, or of the most recent job if the person was retired or out of work.

Questions (B)18 to (B)22 were asked of all persons with a job in the week before the census.

The replies recorded on the census form to the questions marked with an asterisk\* above were investigated during the Quality Check but not all are reported on in this report.

### THE SAMPLE

41. The sample for this part of the Quality Check was a sub-sample of the main Quality Check sample. Only persons of 15 years of age or over were included in the sub-sample. It was an essential part

of the design of the Quality Check that for questions relating to economic activity the interviewers should contact and interview the individual person concerned. Thus the check on the replies on the census form relating to employment was not directed to the form filler although of course there were times when the form filler and the individual selected for the sub-sample were one and the same person.

#### ACHIEVED RESULTS

42. In all 2358 persons were pursued by the Quality Check interviewers to answer questions about their employment. A special 'Individual Employment Schedule' was designed for this purpose. In the event 2008 interviews were achieved (= 85 per cent success). During the processing of the data for these interviews one case had to be rejected and the results for this part of the Quality Check survey are, unless otherwise stated, based on 2007 interviews.

DID THE PERSON HAVE A JOB LAST WEEK? ECONOMIC POSITION  
CENSUS QUESTION (B)7

43. This question asked:

<p><b>B7</b> Did the person have a <b>job last week (the week ended 24th April 1971)?</b> (see note B7)</p> <p>Tick box 1 if the person had a job even if it was only part-time or if the person was temporarily away from work, on holiday, sick, on strike, or laid off.</p> <p>If the person did not have a job tick whichever of boxes 2, 3, 4 or 5 is appropriate; if box 5 is ticked state the reason; for example 'Housewife', 'Student', 'Permanently sick'.</p> <p><i>This question need not be answered for children under 15 years of age.</i></p>
<p>1 <input type="checkbox"/> YES — in a job at some time during the week</p> <p>2 <input type="checkbox"/> NO — seeking work or waiting to take up job</p> <p>3 <input type="checkbox"/> NO — intending to seek work but sick</p> <p>4 <input type="checkbox"/> NO — wholly retired</p> <p>5 <input type="checkbox"/> NO — not seeking work for some other reason, namely .....</p>

44. The census classifies a person's position in relation to paid employment as either

- a. Economically active, or
- b. Economically inactive.

The Quality Check looked at these two classifications further categorised by the replies given to this census question, namely

ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE

- 1. In employment, including those in a part-time job and those temporarily away from work, on holiday, sick, on strike, or laid off.
- 2. Not in employment but seeking work or waiting to take up a job.
- 3. Not in employment, intending to seek work but sick.

ECONOMICALLY INACTIVE

- 4. Wholly retired.
- 5. Not seeking work for some other reason.

45. Table 10 compares the information collected by the Quality Check interviewers on this topic with the details that the form filler recorded on the census form. Of the 2007 persons interviewed it was found that correct information had been recorded on the census form for 1862 of them (= 92.8 per cent success). There were, according to the Quality Check, 145 errors giving a misclassification or error rate of 7.2 per cent.

46. As has been previously explained, no structured attempt was made to explain or quantify the reasons for the errors which came to notice during this part of the Quality Check. Nevertheless it became apparent that some of the more common and important reasons for the errors found in the replies to this question can be explained by

- a. the dual role of students and housewives.
- b. the failure of the printed list of answers to let the form fillers record what they considered to be important
- c. a confusion concerning the meaning of the term "wholly retired".

#### STUDENTS

47. The note to question (B)7 on the census form specifically instructed students that

"A job means any work for payment or profit. In particular it includes casual or temporary work of any kind (for example seasonal work, week-end work and vacation work by students)".

The Quality Check interviewers identified 4 cases where students had a week-end or vacation job but had been entered on the census form by the form filler as "Not seeking work for some other reason". In Table 10 these students form 50% of the 8 persons so recorded in Row 1 Col 5. That is they are shown as economically active by the Quality Check and economically inactive according to the census results.

48. The points to note in this seemingly unsatisfactory arrangement are

1. that the Quality Check results have not been adjusted in accordance with the definitions used in the published census statistics which, as has been mentioned, count all students as economically inactive even if they "had a job last week".
2. that, in any case, for these 4 students their original misclassification places them into the economically inactive category. Thus, by chance, the original incorrect entries on the census forms agree with the definitions subsequently used in the published census statistics although they remain counted as classification errors in Table 10.

# 1971 CENSUS: Quality Check

TABLE 10

## ACCURACY OF CENSUS QUESTION B7

### ECONOMIC POSITION

Did the person have a job last week?

$$\text{Error rate} = \frac{145}{2007} = 7.2\%$$

$$\text{Success rate} = \frac{1862}{2007} = 92.8\%$$

Number of Persons

		WHAT THE CENSUS RECORDED						QUALITY CHECK TOTALS	ACTIVE	INACTIVE	ECONOMICALLY
		Did the person have a job last week?									
		YES in a job at sometime during week	NO seeking/ waiting to take up job	NO Intending to seek work but sick	NO Wholly retired	NO not seeking work for other reason	Form left blank				
WHAT THE QUALITY CHECK FOUND	Did the person have a job "last week"	YES in a job at sometime during week	1211	1	6	4	8	2	1232	ACTIVE	ECONOMICALLY
	NO seeking/ waiting to take up job	0	35	1	0	0	0	36			
	NO Intending to seek work but sick	0	0	6	0	0	2	8			
	NO Wholly retired	0	1	0	160	13	0	174	INACTIVE		
	NO not seeking work for other reason	5	7	4	76	450	15	557			
CENSUS TOTALS		1216	44	17	240	471	19	2007			
		ACTIVE			INACTIVE						
		ECONOMICALLY									

## HOUSEWIVES

49. Although the note to this question already quoted at para 47 attempted to define what was meant by 'a job', the definition did not in any way exclude what many people will have understood to be a housewife's job. The implication in the preamble to the question that being a housewife was not a job was not always accepted by the form-filler or the housewife. It is now agreed that, in future censuses, similar questions must specifically identify the important role of the housewife. 1

50. Of the 5 persons recorded on the census form as being in a job but who were in fact found by the Quality Check to be economically inactive 4 were housewives. Again housewives numbered among the 7 persons who were recorded on the census forms as 'seeking a job' but who were in fact found to be 'economically inactive'. The classification problem identified here centred on an undefined dividing line between a housewife actively seeking a job and her only being interested if one turns up. This is a problem which, unless it is more explicitly dealt with in future censuses, can only contribute confusion to the interpretation of employment statistics.

## PRINTED LIST OF ANSWERS

51. The printed list of possible answers to a question reflects the form in which the census taker wishes the answers to be recorded. The great majority of form-fillers will wish to record answers in the way they consider to be the most informative. If the printed list does not allow this to happen easily then many incorrect answers can be safely forecast. A very good example of this is how the form-filler replied to this question in respect of sick persons. The preamble to the question attempted to make it quite clear that a person was to be recorded as 'in a job' even if he was temporarily away from work because of sickness. But some form-fillers, not necessarily aware of the finer points behind the various groupings, wished to record the fact that such a person was sick and therefore put him in the (only) printed sick category in the list of answers. Again the problem exists with the person who was economically inactive because of permanent sickness or handicap. No separate tick-box was specifically provided for this, to the form-filler, important category of person and there was a tendency for some form-fillers to mark them in the only available category that specifically identified sickness.

52. Both of these types of errors occurred in this question and this part of the census was not well answered. Indeed of the 17 persons recorded on the census forms as 'intending to seek work but sick' the Quality Check found that only 6 were correctly classified. Six of the 17, although temporarily sick and away from work, did in fact have a job to return to when they recovered and so, should have been classified as 'in a job'. For another 4 of this group of 17 fortunes were worse. They were found by the Quality Check to be 'permanently sick or handicapped'. The form-filler should have classified them as 'not seeking work for some other reason' and in addition was then required to write in the reason in the space



provided on the census form. It is generally agreed that in any similar future question provision ought to be made in the printed list of answers to recognise specifically those persons who are permanently sick.

#### WHOLLY RETIRED

53. Although the expression 'wholly retired' was given its own tick-box in the printed list of answers the term was neither explained on the census form nor was it defined in the Instructions for Enumerators. It is therefore not surprising that the Quality Check interviewers, asking their questions in personal contact with each individual, should report that according to their assessments, of the 240 persons described on the census form as 'wholly retired' only 160 were correctly classified, a high error rate of 1 in every 3 (= 33 per cent error).

54. Predictably of the 80 cases where the Quality Check found an error, a small number, 4 (= 5 per cent) were caused by persons who, although they may have considered themselves to be retired in more general terms, did in fact have a job. The remaining errors, 76 (= 95 per cent), were, according to the Quality Check caused by the form-filler describing as 'wholly retired' those persons who should have been classified as "housewife".

55. The expression 'retired' (but not "wholly retired") was subsequently defined in the published census results as

'RETIRED ie formerly in employment but no longer seeking it. Housewives and persons engaged on home duties are classified as 'retired' or 'housewife' according to how they were described in the census form; (---- people under the age of 35 who were described (in the census form) as 'retired' -- were reclassified (in the published results) as 'Other economically inactive')'.

#### ANALYSIS BY SEX AND MARITAL SITUATION

56. This definition of the term 'retired' effectively conceals the major misclassification identified by the Quality Check. Because of this and because the pattern of employment differs considerably between men and women, and between married women, and unmarried women, the Quality Check results in Table 10 have been analysed in more detail in Table 11. This finer analysis looks at males and females separately and also differentiates between married and unmarried females. It will be noted that the total number of persons included in Table 11 is

Males	923
Unmarried females	330
Married females	670
	<hr/>
	1923

1971 CENSUS: QUALITY CHECK

REPLIES TO CENSUS QUESTION (B) 7

ECONOMIC POSITION

Number of persons

WHAT THE QUALITY CHECK FOUND TO BE THE CASE. 'LAST WEEK' THE PERSON WAS	WHAT THE FORM FILLER RECORDED ON THE CENSUS FORM: LAST WEEK THE PERSON WAS																				
	MALE							UNMARRIED FEMALE							MARRIED FEMALE						
	In a job some time during week	Seeking work/ waiting to take up job sick	Intend- ing to work but sick	Wholly retired	Not seeking work some other reason	No answer	All Males	In a job some time during week	Seeking work/ waiting to take up job sick	Intend- ing to work but sick	Wholly retired	Not seeking work some other reason	No answer	All unmarr- ied females	In a job some time during week	Seeking work/ waiting to take up job sick	Intend- ing to work but sick	Wholly retired	Not seeking work some other reason	No answer	All married females
In employment	752						752	146					2	148	269				6	1	276
Paid casual or temp work	0				1		1				1	3		4					1	1	2
Temporarily away from work	6	1	3	1	2		13			2	1			3			1	4		5	
All in employment	758	1	3	1	3		766	146		2	2	3	2	155	269		1	11	2	283	
Seeking work		23					23		6	1				7		3		1		4	
Waiting to take up work		1					1		0					0		0				0	
All out of employment (other)		24					24		6	1				7		3		1		4	
All out of employment (sick)			2			1	3			3				3			0			1	1
All wholly retired				86	1		87		1	1	48	10		60			15	1		16	
Housewife					1		1				34	44	2	80	4	4	41	308	6	363	
Student		1			29	6	36	1				22	1	24					2	1	3
Other economically inactive		1	2		3		6		1	1		0		1					0	0	
All economically inactive (other)		2	2		33	6	43	1	1	1	34	66	3	105	4	4	41	310	7	366	
Totals	758	27	7	87	37	7	923	147	8	7	84	79	5	330	273	7	57	323	10	670	

Persons aged 15 years and over enumerated in private households in Great Britain

A. Males

	1971 Census figure*	% of total pop'n	Quality Check Estimate	% of total pop'n	s e of estimate	s e of %
ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE						
In employment	14,723,723	78.3	14,936,00	79.4	63,000	0.3
Out of employment:						
Sick	174,662	0.9	50,000	0.3	31,000	0.2
Other	631,329	3.4	561,000	3.0	37,000	0.2
Total economically active	15,529,714	82.5	15,547,000	82.6		
ECONOMICALLY INACTIVE						
Retired	2,190,044	11.6	2,194,000	11.7	34,000	0.2
Other inactive	1,094,202	5.8	1,073,000	5.7	65,000	0.3
Total economically inactive	3,284,246	17.5	3,267,000	17.4		
Total males 15 and over in private households	18,813,960		18,814,000			

B. Married Females

	1971 Census figure*	% of total pop'n	Quality Check Estimate	% of total pop'n	s e of estimate	s e of %
ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE						
In employment	5,496,719	40.5	5,665,000	41.7	81,000	0.6
Out of employment:						
Sick	47,833	0.4	48,000	0.4	-	-
Other	198,445	1.5	106,000	0.8	41,000	0.3
Total Economically Active	5,742,997	42.3	5,819,000	42.9		
ECONOMICALLY INACTIVE						
Retired	1,072,239	7.9	303,000	2.2	70,000	0.5
Other inactive	6,754,996	49.8	7,448,000	54.9	114,000	0.8
Total Economically Inactive	7,827,235	57.7	7,751,000	57.1		
Total married females 15 and over in private households	13,570,232		13,570,000			

C. Females

	1971 Census figure*	% of total pop'n	Quality Check Estimate	% of total pop'n	s e of estimate	s e of %
ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE						
in employment	8,539,510	41.1	8,825,000	42.5	101,000	0.5
out of employment:						
Sick	96,131	0.5	69,000	0.3	21,000	0.1
Other	337,532	1.6	217,000	1.0	51,000	0.2
Total economically active	8,973,173	43.2	9,111,000	43.9		
ECONOMICALLY INACTIVE						
Retired	2,932,829	14.1	1,658,000	8.0	146,000	0.7
Other inactive	8,869,272	42.7	10,006,000	48.2	175,000	0.8
Total economically inactive	11,802,101	56.8	11,664,000	56.1		
Total females 15 and over in private households	20,775,274		20,775,000			

\* 1971 Census Small Area Statistics, Great Britain: unpublished

Because of processing difficulties a total of 84 persons could not be matched in this exercise. The classification of 1 man as a housewife is not an error; this is possible according to the Social Survey definition of a housewife.

57. Using the figure given in Table 11 revised estimates have been made of the populations recorded by the census. These revised populations are given in Table 12. The relationship between Table 11 and Table 12 is not a direct one. Table 11 refers to males/unmarried females/married females and Table 12 to males/married females/(all) females. Bearing in mind the general caution given in para 14 against attempts to adjust the published census statistics it is to be noted that the revised estimates given in Table 12 were prepared in the Census Division of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys.

## OCCUPATION

### CENSUS QUESTION (B)16 and (B)22

58. Census question (B)16 asked in respect of the persons main employment last week, or of the persons most recent job if retired or out of work

"What was the person's occupation?"

An attempt was made in this Quality Check to identify and code a persons occupation in the week before the census and to compare and thus verify, or otherwise, those occupations with the occupations that had been recorded by the form-filler on the census form. This exercise proved difficult and arbitrary in a high proportion of cases and the attempt was abandoned. Consequently it is not possible to derive any reliable measure of the accuracy of response to this census question from the Quality Check survey.

59. Similar difficulties arose at census question (B)22. This asked of all persons with a job in the week before the census

"Was the person's occupation one year ago the same as last week?"

If so, write 'SAME'.

If not, give details of the occupation one year ago.

If none, write NONE.

Again direct validation of this census question cannot be made from the result of the Quality Check survey. Identifying and classifying occupations is of course a large and complex task. The methodology necessary to validate this important census question needs to be reviewed and improved if it is to remain part of future independent Quality Checks.

60. Nevertheless some indirect but useful measure of the quality of response to census question (B)22 is possible by cross-analysing the replies to this question with the replies given to census question (B)7, and with the replies given to some of the questions asked during the Quality Check. This is done in Table 13. It is important to understand that in this Table

- a. the analysis is based on coding carried out within the Social Survey Division. Replies to census question (B)22 would only have been coded by the census coders if the person concerned was recorded as having a job in the week before the census.
- b. the replies to both census question (B)7 and census question (B)22 are the replies that were in fact recorded on the census form by the form-filler. The replies to census question (B)7 have not been adjusted to take account of the findings of the Quality Check interviewers as recorded in Table 10.

61. Table 13 shows the number of cases, 51 (= 4.2 per cent error) where census question (B)22 was left blank although it should have contained a reply of some form. It was in fact left blank correctly in 707 out of 791 cases (= 89.4 per cent success). There are also indications in Table 13 that the instruction, "If none, write NONE" had been interpreted by some persons as applying to the 'job last week' and not the 'occupation last year'. This error however would have been edited out of the published census statistics.

62. It is of interest to see that in the cross analysis of the replies to census question (B)7 and (B)22 there were 22 persons for whom it was recorded

- a. that they did not have a job 'last week'
- b. that one year ago their occupation was the same as their occupation last week.

Although there would be some logic in this situation if they had no occupation last year there is a suggestion of a misunderstanding in this question. The existence of this misunderstanding is reinforced in the cross analysis of the replies to the Quality Check questions, with census question (B)22. Here it is seen that there were 22 persons for whom it was recorded

- a. that they did have a job 'last week'
- b. that one year ago their occupation was the same as their occupation last week but in fact they did not have a job 1 year ago.

This misunderstanding can only be connected with the meaning of the word occupation. It can be loosely synonymous with the concept of a 'trade', 'calling', 'business' or 'profession'. In consequence it is possible that some persons will lay claim to an occupation although at any particular moment they may not be employed at it.

63. In order to identify what a person's occupation was one year before the census, the Quality Check interviewers asked questions about employers and changes of job during the year. This was done to establish in the first place, and as accurately as possible, whether or not the person was employed one year ago. Changes of employer or job are not of course necessarily changes in occupation. Indeed it might be accepted, intuitively, that most people who change their employers would not at the same time change their occupation because their occupation represents their marketable skills. But Table 13 appears not to support such intuition. It is seen that of the 136 persons who were working for a different employer at the time of the census from the one they were with a year ago 75 of them (= 55.1 per cent) are recorded as having changed their occupation.

This rejection of intuition must be treated with caution. Although the census question on this topic appears to be quite simple and clear as it stands, it could in some persons mind have more than one meaning. The question does not protect itself from a misunderstanding which can arise, which was in fact commented on during the Quality Check, and which can confuse a change of occupation with a change of job or employer.

1971 CENSUS: QUALITY CHECK

Replies to Census Question (B) 22

OCCUPATION ONE YEAR AGO

For all persons with a job last week.  
 Was the persons occupation one year ago the same as last week?  
 If so, write 'SAME'.  
 If not, give details of the occupation one year ago.  
 If none, write 'NONE'.

		Number of Persons				
REPLIES TO CENSUS QUESTIONS (B) 7		REPLIES TO CENSUS QUESTION (B) 22				
		'SAME'	NOT SAME	'NONE'	LEFT BLANK	ALL
Did the person	YES - in a job at sometime	998	109	58	51	1,216
have a job	NO - seeking work etc.	6	1	2	35	44
last week?	NO - sick	5	0	2	10	17
	NO - wholly retired	6	0	14	220	240
	NO - other reason	5	1	38	427	471
	NO - no recorded answer	2	1	1	15	19
	All	1,022	112	115	758	2,007
REPLIES TO QUALITY CHECK QUESTIONS						
Asked of all persons who did in fact have a job in the week before the census.						
One year ago the person was						
IN EMPLOYMENT						
	Working for the same employer	924	26	3	38	991
	Working for the previous employer	36	55	1	5	97
	Working for an even earlier employer	13	20	1	5	39
NOT WORKING						
	Never employed before	10	1	23	12	46
	In between current and previous job	10	1	13	1	25
	In between previous and even earlier job	2	0	15	2	19
	All recorded replies	995	103	56	63	1,217

**EMPLOYMENT STATUS**      Census Questions (B) 17

Number of Persons

**TABLE 14**

EMPLOYMENT STATUS	FOUND BY QUALITY CHECK INTERVIEWERS								CENSUS	
	With job 'last week' No. %	Without job 'last week' No. %	All who should have replied No. %	All No. %	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Housewife/ never had job/blank					526	26.2			665	33.1
Employee	1135	92.1	230	92.4	1365	92.2		1233	61.4	
Self-employed employing others	36	2.9	12	4.8	48	3.2		43	2.1	
Self-employed without employees	61	5.0	7	2.8	68	4.6		66	3.3	
ALL TOTAL	1232	100.0	249	100.0	1481	100.0		2007	100.0	



EMPLOYEE OR SELF-EMPLOYED?      EMPLOYMENT STATUS

CENSUS QUESTION (B)17

64. Question (B)17 on the census form was asked of persons of 15 years of age and over. It was asked in respect of the person's main employment last week or of the person's most recent job if the person was retired or out of work. It asked

Was the person

an employee, or  
self-employed, employing others, or  
self-employed without employees?

65. There were some slightly confusing instructions contained in the heading to this group of questions, that is questions (B)15 to (B)17. They told the form-filler:

"Answer questions (B)15 - (B)17 in respect of the main employment last week, or of the most recent job if retired or out of work. For persons who have never had a job and for a housewife who did not have a job last week write 'NONE' at (B)15".

Clearly a person who had never had a job would also leave question (B)17 blank. But in the case of a housewife who had had a job, possibly very recently even if she did not have it 'last week', it was not at all clear what should happen at (B)17.

66. Table 14 compares the totals of the replies the form-fillers put on the census forms at census question (B)17 with what the Quality Check interviewers found to be the case. It should be read in conjunction with the cross analysis of these totals in Table 15.

67. Noticeable from these Tables is the reason for the greatest error in the response to this question, that is the number of persons for whom the question was not answered although it should have been. The cross-analysis in Table 15 shows that for the 1481 persons for whom this question should have been answered, it was left blank in 165 cases (= 11.1 per cent error). Understandably this error was greatest for those persons who did not have a job in the week before the census but had been employees, perhaps in some cases, some considerable time ago. For this group of 230 persons identified by the Quality Check, the census form had been left blank in 106 cases (= 46.1 per cent error).

68. Two overall error rates have been calculated for this question from Table 15. The first, the higher rate (= 11.0 per cent), counts as an error any replies to this question relating to housewives who did not have a job in the week before the census. These were counted as errors even if the replies given were otherwise correct in respect of the housewife's most recent job. The second error rate, the lower (= 9.7 per cent), is calculated on the basis that, despite (or because of) the confusing instruction associated with the heading to this question, form-fillers were not in error in replying to this question in respect of all housewives who had had a job at sometime and that the answers they did give were in fact correct. The Quality Check did not test this latter point which concerned (from Table 15) 26 persons.

69. But this census question is a very good example of the case where the checking and processing of the census forms after they had been filled in by the form-filler improved the quality of the published census statistics. Nearly all the census forms left blank at this question were nevertheless coded by the coders. Taking into account the replies given to questions (B)15 and (B)16, there was rarely any doubt about the correct code to use apart from the distinction between 'self-employed, employing others' and 'self-employed without employees'.

Accuracy of Question (B) 17

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

In respect of the main employment last week, or of the most recent job if retired or out of work, was the person:

an employee, or  
self-employed employing others, or  
self-employed without employees

ERROR RATE

Higher =  $\frac{221}{2007} = 11.0\%$

Lower =  $\frac{195}{2007} = 9.7\%$

SUCCESS RATE

Lower =  $\frac{1786}{2007} = 89.0\%$

Higher =  $\frac{1812}{2007} = 90.3\%$

		Number of Persons					
		WHAT THE FORM FILLER RECORDED ON THE CENSUS FORM					
		The person was:					
		an employee	self employed employing others	self employed without employees	Form left blank		
		QUALITY CHECK TOTALS					
		CENSUS TOTALS	2007	1233	43	66	665
WHAT THE QUALITY CHECK INTERVIEWER FOUND TO BE THE CASE	The person was a	Housewife or Never had a job	526	22	1	3	500
	In the job 'last week' the person was	All with job last week	1232	1091	35	52	54
		an employee	1135	1082	4	4	45
		self employed employing others	36	4	27	3	2
		self employed without employees	61	5	4	45	7
	No job last week but in the persons most recent job the person was	All 'no job last week'	249	120	7	11	111
		an employee	230	120	1	3	106
		self employed employing others	12	0	6	2	4
		self employed without employees	7	0	0	6	1

CHILDREN BORN ALIVE IN MARRIAGE: FERTILITY

INTRODUCTION

70. The question on the census form which enquired into the number and date of birth of children born alive to a woman and of the dates of her (first) marriage were Questions (B)23 and (B)24.

For women aged under 60 who are married, widowed or divorced.			
<p><b>B23</b> Enter the month and year of birth of each child born alive to her in marriage; include any who have since died.  If none, write 'NONE'.  <i>Enter the dates in order of birth, starting with the first born.</i>  <i>If she has been married more than once give the dates for the children of all her marriages.</i></p>		<p><b>B24</b> <i>a</i> Write the month and year of marriage (the first marriage if married more than once).  <i>b</i> If the first marriage has ended (by the husband's death or by divorce) write the month and year when it ended. If not ended, write 'NOT ENDED'.</p>	
Month	Year	Month	Year
		<p><i>a</i> Date of (first) marriage Month                      Year</p>	
		<p><i>b</i> Date (first) marriage ended Month                      Year</p>	

71. These questions enquire into what can be a very sensitive topic. It can be assumed that on some occasions the replies to these questions on the census form would have been adjusted by individuals to conceal pre-marital conceptions and illegitimacy.

72. It is important to re-state that the Quality Check interviews on this subject were in each case carried out only with the women concerned. A special questionnaire (the Individual Fertility Questionnaire) was used for these interviews and a sub-sample of the Quality Check survey sample was selected comprising 1 in every 3 eligible women listed on the census forms ie women aged under 60 who were married, widowed or divorced. This sampling fraction was such that it would be unlikely for more than one eligible woman to be interviewed in any one household. However it was possible, and so it did happen, that this same woman was also selected for interviews for the main Household Questionnaire or/and the special Individual Employment Questionnaire.

73. The Fertility Questionnaire was especially designed to check that

- a. the correct dates had been entered on the census form for the beginning, and if applicable, the ending of the woman's first marriage; and that
- b. all the children born alive to the woman in (all) her marriage(s) had been listed with their correct dates of birth.

74. In addition, because of the more personal nature of the Quality Check, a question was asked about the date of any later marriage. This was done because it had been suggested that some women were concerned that limiting the census question to the dates of a first marriage left in doubt the legitimacy of children of a subsequent marriage.

## RESULTS

### ACHIEVED INTERVIEWS

75. The total number of persons selected for this sub-sample of the Quality Check was 956. Interviews were in fact achieved with 830 women ie 87 per cent of the set sample. The main loss of interviews occurred because either it had not been possible to contact the household at all, or the form-filler had refused to co-operate in the survey. In those households that were contacted and where the form-filler had agreed to take part only 2 per cent of the eligible women who should have been interviewed on this topic either could not be contacted individually or personally refused to co-operate.

76. The data for this part of the survey were processed both manually and by computer. In the manual counts 2 cases had to be rejected and the results of these hand counts are based on 828 cases. In producing a fully edited data tape, six further cases were rejected and so the analyses made by computer are based on 822 cases.

DATE OF FIRST MARRIAGE

CENSUS QUESTION (B) 24(a)

77. The correct date of the woman's first marriage had been recorded by the form filler for 91.3 per cent of all the eligible women interviewed (Table 16). In 3.1 per cent of all cases the form filler had left the form blank, and an incorrect date had been entered for the remaining 5.6 per cent of cases.

Table 16

---

DATE OF FIRST MARRIAGE

CENSUS QUESTION (B)24a

HOW THE QUESTION WAS ANSWERED

	Number of cases	%
Correct date of first marriage entered	756	91.3
Date of first marriage wrong	46	5.6
Form left blank in error	26	3.1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
All cases interviewed	828	100.0
	<hr/>	<hr/>

78. No attempt was made during the Quality Check to enquire why an incorrect date had been recorded. In looking at the errors in the dates that had been incorrectly recorded (Table 17) it can be seen that half of them (50.0%) occurred where the date was precisely 1 year or 1 month out. This indicates a simple counting error as responsible for the incorrect entry. It is known, from reports made by interviewers, that in a further 3 cases with errors of 9 years 9 months, 12 years 4 months, and 26 years 10 months, the errors were caused by the form filler entering the date of a second marriage.

Table 17

---

 ERRORS IN DATE OF FIRST MARRIAGE

	Number of Cases	% of all errors	% of all cases with date recorded
Date differed by:-			
1 month	11	23.9	1.37
2 month - less than 1 year	7	15.2	0.87
1 year	12	26.1	1.50
13 month - less than 2 years	4	8.7	0.50
2 years - less than 4 years	2	4.3	0.25
4 years or more	8	17.4	1.00
Not calculable	2	4.3	0.25
	—	—	—
All cases recorded with an error	46	100.0	5.74
	—	—	—
No error in recorded date	756		94.26
			—
All cases with a date recorded	802		100.0
			—
No date recorded	26		
	—		
Total	828		
	—		

---

DATE OF END OF FIRST MARRIAGE

CENSUS QUESTION (B) 24(b)

79. This part of the census question had to be completed by the form filler recording in respect of each woman aged under 60 who was married, widowed or divorced either

- a. the date the woman's first marriage had ended, or, if her first marriage had not ended,
- b. 'NOT ENDED'

Table 18

---

DATE OF END OF FIRST MARRIAGE

CENSUS QUESTION (B)24b

HOW THE QUESTION WAS ANSWERED

	No of cases	% in each group	% all persons
<u>First marriage NOT ended</u>			
'NOT ENDED' recorded correctly	579	78.1	69.9
Left blank: 'NOT ENDED' should have been recorded	161	21.7	19.4
Date entered in error	1	0.1	0.1
All cases first marriage NOT ended	741	100.0	89.5
<u>First marriage ended</u>			
Date recorded and correct	64	81.0	7.7
Date recorded but wrong	1	1.3	0.1
'NOT ENDED' recorded in error	4	5.1	0.5
Left blank; date should have been recorded	10	12.7	1.2
All cases first marriage ended	79	100.0	9.5
No information	8		1.0
Total	828		100.0

---



80. It is clear from Table 18 that in quite a large proportion (21.7%) of those cases where 'NOT ENDED' should have been written in the form filler chose to leave the census form blank at this point. In a very small number of cases (4) although the first marriage had in fact ended, 'NOT ENDED' had nevertheless been written in. This was because after giving a date of marriage at part 'a' of the Question, 'NOT ENDED' was recorded mistakenly referring to the person's second marriage.

## DATE OF BIRTH OF EACH CHILD BORN ALIVE IN MARRIAGE

## CENSUS QUESTION (B)23

81. At this question the form filler had to enter on the census form, for each woman aged under 60 who was married or widowed or divorced, the month and year of birth of each child born alive to her in marriage. From this information the number of children born alive in marriage could be calculated. If the women had NO such children then the form filler was asked to write in 'NONE'.

Table 19

## DATE OF BIRTH OF CHILDREN BORN ALIVE IN MARRIAGE

## CENSUS QUESTION (B)23

## HOW THE QUESTION WAS ANSWERED

	No of cases	% in each group	% all women
<u>Woman had NO child born alive in marriage</u>			
'NONE' entered correctly	100	73.0	12.1
Form left blank	32	23.4	3.9
Date entered in error	5	3.6	0.6
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
All cases 'NO child'	137	100.0	16.5
<u>Woman had child born alive in marriage</u>			
Date(s) recorded and correct	646	93.5	78.0
Date(s) recorded but wrong	40	5.8	4.8
'NONE' entered in error	4	0.6	0.5
Form left blank	1	0.1	0.1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
All cases 'had child'	691	100.0	83.5
Total	828		100.0

82. It will be seen from Table 19 that this question was quite well answered except, again, for those cases where the form filler left the census form blank when, in fact, 'NONE' should have been written in. The small number of cases where seemingly contrary entries were recorded can be attributed to a combination of errors on the part not only of the form fillers but also of the Quality Checkers. This is because the concept of illegitimacy, discussed later when considering 'Number of Children' appears to have slightly confused the analysis of this part of the Quality Check Survey.

#### ERRORS IN CHILD'S DATE OF BIRTH

83. Table 20 gives details of the errors in the date of birth for the children who were listed at Census question (B)23. Again it will be noted that nearly half (48.1%) of all the errors recorded can be attributed to counting errors, some perhaps deliberate, associated with 1 month (30.8%) or 1 year (17.3%).

Table 20

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#### ERRORS IN CHILD'S DATE OF BIRTH

##### CENSUS QUESTION (B)23

Dates differed by	Number of Wrong dates	% of all Wrong dates
1 month	16	30.8
2 months - less than 1 year	18*	34.6
1 year	9	17.3
13 months - less than 2 years	1	1.9
2 years	2	3.8
More than 2 years	6	11.5
	—	—
All wrong dates	52**	100.0

\* Includes 5 cases where no month was recorded

\*\* Recorded on 40 schedules

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THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN BORN ALIVE IN MARRIAGE: FAMILY SIZE  
CALCULATED FROM CENSUS QUESTION (B)23

84. The number of children born alive to a woman in marriage is seemingly quite simply calculated from the number of dates of birth recorded on the census form at question (B)23. Indeed the Census Totals in Table 21 have been calculated on that basis but unfortunately neither these totals nor the Quality Check totals in the same table can be considered completely reliable. The difficulty arises because the expression "child born alive in marriage" is a rather subtle phrase. It has connotations in relation to legitimacy of birth which can vary the meaning of the census question from

- a. 'Do NOT include any illegitimate child'; through
- b. 'Do NOT include a child born out of marriage even if subsequently legitimated by the parents' marriage'; to
- c. 'Do NOT include a legitimate child if it is born after the end of a marriage'.

85. These possible interpretations of the census questions might have confused the form filler. They certainly confused the Quality Check. When coding the answers to the questions asked on this topic during the Quality Check, instructions were given to delete children identified or admitted as illegitimate. These deletions had the unintended effect of altering the original data transferred from the census forms. An attempt has been made to reverse this error in Table 21 but at best it must be considered as a close approximation to the situation where

- a. The Census Totals include ALL children whose dates of birth were recorded at Census Question (B)23.
- b. the Quality Check totals comprise the Census totals PLUS children incorrectly omitted from the census form (= +94) MINUS children incorrectly entered on the census form (= -31).

CHILDREN INCORRECTLY OMITTED FROM THE CENSUS FORM

86. The Quality Check did not specifically enquire into the reasons why the form filler omitted children from census question (B)23. However, it became clear, from comments made by interviewers, that among the more common reasons for omitting a child were the following

- a. The form filler felt justified in omitting children because:-
  1. they were children of a former marriage
  2. they were not present on census night
  3. they were no longer alive
  4. they were not part of the household
  5. they had already been included on the census form at question (B) or (C) 1 to 3.

b. The form filler accepted that a mistake had been made, the reason being that:-

1. a child in a large family was overlooked
2. a child's date of birth could not be recalled.

87. It is suggested that some of these errors could be reduced by first specifically asking form fillers to record the number of children born and then asking them about dates of birth. This is what was done during the Quality Check and it enabled 50 cases where errors had been made in the number of children to be identified and corrected. Against this of course it must be accepted that, rather than any particular form of question, it was the personal contact with the woman concerned which ensured greater accuracy during the Quality Check.

#### CHILDREN INCORRECTLY ENTERED ON THE CENSUS FORM

88. The children who were incorrectly entered on the census form at question (B)23 comprise 2 groups

1. adopted children (9 children)
2. children born out of marriage (22 children)

The personal contact with the woman concerned enabled these children to be identified. But it was clear that in some cases this question and the census question enquiring into a parent's country of birth posed a difficult emotional problem for the parent of an adopted child.

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TABLE 21

Accuracy of Question B23

Number of Children Born Alive in Marriage

The numbers in the body of the table are the numbers of women who have had the number of children indicated

Error rate  
 $= \frac{72}{822} = 8.8\%$

Success rate  
 $= \frac{750}{822} = 91.2\%$

		CENSUS											
		Number of children born alive in marriage as calculated from the details recorded on the census form by the form filler											
		Number of children born alive in marriage											
		Total	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Q U A L I T Y  C H E C K	Number of children born alive in marriage as given by the women concerned to the Quality Check interviewer	Total	822	166	179	244	119	62	32	12	6	1	1
		0	154	142	8	2	1	1					
		1	172	4	165	2	1						
		2	250	9	5	232	4						
		3	122	7	1	4	107	3					
		4	67	3		2	5	56	1				
		5	36	0		2	1	2	31				
		6	12	1						11			
		7	5							1	4		
		8	3								2	1	
9	1										1		

Total number of children born alive in marriage from Quality Check = 1,626  
 Total number of children born alive in marriage from Census Form = 1,563  
 Difference = +63

$\frac{\text{Quality Check Total}}{\text{Census Total}} = \frac{1,626}{1,563} = 1.04$